

Business and Professional Women/OH

Legislative News and What to Do

October 24 – October 31, 2022 www.bpwohio.org/legislation

Our Mission: To achieve equity for all women in the workplace and to empower all women through advocacy, education and information. Established in 1920.

The information contained in the links below are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of BPW Ohio. They are provided for your information to educate you about these pending legislative issues.

If you would like to share links to include in future issues, please email to: BPWOHLegChair@gmail.com. Include your name and local organization's name.

Voting

Supreme Court candidates talk racism, redistricting in 'faith and freedom' forum

https://ohiocapitaljournal.com/2022/10/26/supreme-court-candidates-talk-racism-redistricting-in-faithand-freedom-forum/

Equal Rights Amendment

THE ALICE PAUL EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT:

Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

BPW/OH's Legislation Platform Preamble: The Alice Paul Equal Rights Amendment shall stand first, foremost and above all other items which may appear on the Legislative Platform of this Federation until equal rights for women and men become guaranteed in the United States Constitution

ARTICLES

Nevadans to Vote on 'Revolutionary' ERA: 'Equal Rights Crosses Party Lines'

https://msmagazine.com/2022/10/28/equal-rights-amendment-nevada-election-2022/?omhide=true&utm_medium=email&utm_source=everyaction&emci=4d18798a-ed56-ed11-819c-002248258d2f&emdi=ed55029b-8957-ed11-819c-002248258d2f&ceid=447432

Abortion and Equal Rights Are Top Drivers of Young Women's Vote in Battleground States

https://msmaqazine.com/2022/10/18/women-voters-midterm-electionsabortion/?omhide=true&utm_medium=email&utm_source=everyaction&emci=4d18798a-ed56-ed11-819c-002248258d2f&emdi=ed55029b-8957-ed11-819c-002248258d2f&ceid=447432

Reproductive Choice

On June 24th the Supreme Court ruled that the constitution does not provide a right to abortion. The ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization allows states to regulate abortion and state legislatures can pass laws that restrict abortion before viability. On the same day, a federal judge lifted an injunction on Ohio's heart beat bill which was signed into law in 2019.

In short, Ohio has banned abortions at approximately six weeks gestation. If any cardiac activity is detected, abortion is prohibited except when there is serious risk of death or substantial impairment of a major bodily function. The bill makes no exceptions for rape or incest.

BPW/OH's Legislation Platform on Health: Actively work to strengthen and enforce legal protection for full access to all health care services including reproductive choice, funding for research into the protection for women's health care and educational programs concerning women's health issues

Articles

Federal Aid for Poor Families Is Being Used to Fund Anti-Abortion Movement: Report https://www.yahoo.com/finance/news/federal-aid-poor-families-being-191845625.html

Homicide is a leading cause of death for pregnant women, new study finds https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/homicide-leading-cause-death-pregnant-women-224016183.html

Doctors Call for National Day of Action on Abortion: 'We Can't Just All Get Thrown Into Jail' https://www.yahoo.com/news/doctors-call-national-day-action-224500495.html

Here's what pregnancy actually looks like before 10 weeks. Experts explain why we don't see these images more often

https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/what-early-abortions-actually-look-like-234132254.html

Everything you need to know about miscarriages: Symptoms, risks, treatments & more https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/everything-to-know-miscarriages-symptoms-risks-treatments-210011192.html

Abortion Bans Are Already Affecting Young Women's Personal and Professional Plans https://msmagazine.com/2022/10/24/abortion-economy-young-womenvoters/?omhide=true&utm_medium=email&utm_source=everyaction&emci=4d18798a-ed56-ed11-819c-002248258d2f&emdi=ed55029b-8957-ed11-819c-002248258d2f&ceid=447432

With over-the-counter birth control pills likely to be approved, pharmacists and pharmacies could play an ever-increasing role in reproductive health care

https://www.yahoo.com/news/over-counter-birth-control-pills-123236622.html

Abortion activist says, 'Our country is on a knife's edge'

https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/abortion-activist-says-our-country-is-on-a-knifes-edge-165017515.html

Struggles of the Modern Male

https://washingtonmonthly.com/2022/10/28/struggles-of-the-modern-male/

The Abortion-Rights Messages That Resonate With Men https://www.yahoo.com/news/abortion-rights-messages-resonate-men-205344733.html

Arizona agrees not to enforce total abortion ban until 2023

https://www.yahoo.com/news/arizona-agrees-not-enforce-total-010913918.html

Here's what you need to know about Arizona's abortion law https://www.yahoo.com/news/heres-know-arizonas-abortion-law-130042259.html

Judge hears testimony in bid to strike Georgia abortion law https://www.yahoo.com/news/trial-over-georgias-restrictive-abortion-050418734.html

Kentucky's abortion laws will violate reproductive and religious freedom https://www.yahoo.com/news/kentucky-abortion-laws-violate-reproductive-131700640.html

What Michigan's Prop 3 Could Mean for National Abortion Rights https://msmagazine.com/2022/10/28/michigan-ballot-measure-abortion-proposal-3/?omhide=true&utm_medium=email&utm_source=everyaction&emci=4d18798a-ed56-ed11-819c-002248258d2f&emdi=ed55029b-8957-ed11-819c-002248258d2f&ceid=447432

Montana Voters Are Facing a Deceptive Abortion Ballot Measure https://www.yahoo.com/news/montana-republicans-backing-ballot-measure-213700568.html

Austin woman trying for baby says Texas abortion law nearly caused her death https://www.yahoo.com/news/austin-woman-trying-baby-says-141210038.html

The priority for writing postcards is highlighted in yellow in the document below.

AND

Click on this link to send a postcard/email to Senator Schumer

Send a Postcard/Email to Senator Schumer – ERA Coalition

Writing Advocacy Postcards



A Professional Beginning: Using a proper salutation can really help you set a polite and informative tone.

 Use "Dear Representative Brown" or Dear Senator Brown

"I am writing about HR 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021, currently before the Senate. I encourage you to approve this legislation as written on the grounds that"



Informative Yet Not Too Wordy:

Identify yourself as a constituent. Focus on key points, make your requests clear, and <u>cite the bill number</u> (HR 8).

- Explain the potential impact on women -- and you if relevant. Use "I" statements and reference specific examples.
- Write about one issue and explain how you want the recipient to address your concerns.

Example:

"I am a constituent writing about HR 8, the XYZ Act, currently before the Senate. This legislation will ensure that women will receive complete medical information regarding options and access to reproductive healthcare. Please vote for HR 8!"

FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

If you do not know who your representatives are. You can look them up.

Find your Ohio House member and contact information here: <u>https://ohiohouse.gov/members/district-map</u>

Find your Ohio Senate member and contact information here: <u>https://www.ohiosenate/senators/district-map</u>

Find you US Representative and contact information here: <u>https://www.house.gov/representatives</u>

OHIO ADDRESSES:

<u>Ohio House</u> Jo Ann Davidson Theatre Vern Riffe Center 77 S. High St Columbus, OH 43215

Ohio Senate Senate Building 1 Capitol Square Columbus, OH 43215

FEDERAL ADDRESSES

US Senate

Sherrod Brown 503 Hart Senate Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20510

Rob Portman 448 Russell Senate Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20510

SAMPLE MESSAGES

Equal Rights Amendment

SJR 1 Removes an arbitrary time limit on the passage of the ERA.

Dear Senator Brown

Thank you for co-sponsoring SJR1. Please champion the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and urge Majority Leader Schumer to bring it to the floor for a vote. It's time that equality of rights under the law not be denied on account of sex. Make the ERA the 28th Amendment to the Constitution!

Dear Senator Portman

Please co-sponsor SJR1 and actively work for the passage of the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. Everyone should have equality of rights under the law that cannot be denied or abridged on account of sex. This adds to the legacy you leave in the Senate.

HR 891, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the "Equal Rights Amendment" to the Constitution is valid. Ohio Co-sponsors: Marcy Kaptor, Shotel Brown, Joyce Beatty, Tim Ryan

Dear Representative xxxxxx

Please co-sponsor and actively work to pass HR891 that acknowledges the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. The arbitrary time limit was on the Preamble and is not binding. The Equal Rights Amendment has met all the requirements of passage. The impact of this amendment will ensure equality of rights under the law cannot be denied or abridged on account of sex.

Reproductive Choice

Write to your Ohio Representative and Senator to express your concern about these bills and that you do not want them to vote for any bill that decides when life begins, controls access to all reproductive healthcare options with no restrictions or criminalizes patients or doctors for taking advantage of any healthcare options recommended by their doctors for their situation.

Note: These bills are in committee HB 704 - The Personhood Act HB 598 Enact Human Protection Act SB 123 Enact Human Protection Act SB 352 - Designate June 24 as "Life Day" HB 480 - Authorize private right of action for abortion or aiding abortion

Dear Representative XXXX

Doctors and health providers not legislators or neighbors should be providing accurate and full information and access to all reproductive healthcare options that meet the needs of their patients. This includes telemedicine, contraception, pre-natal care, hormone therapy, fertility treatments, and if/when medically needed abortion care. Vote no on HB704, HB598, HB480 or any other legislation that does not rely on science and doctor's recommendations for the care of their patients.

Dear Senator XXXX

Doctors and health providers not legislators or neighbors should be providing accurate and full information and access to all reproductive healthcare options. Vote no on SB123, SB352 or any other legislation that does not rely on science and the best care for their patient's individual situation.

H.R. 8373 the Right to Contraception Act SJR.4557 — Right to Contraception Act Co-Sponsored by <u>Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]*</u>

This bill sets out statutory protections for an individual's right to access and a health care provider's right to provide contraception and related information

Dear Senator Brown

Thank you for co-sponsoring SJR4557. Please champion the passage of the Right to Contraception Act and urge Majority Leader Schumer to bring it to the floor for a vote. We need assurance that access to contraception and accurate information will always be provided by healthcare providers.

Dear Senator Portman

Please co-sponsor SJR4557and work for its passage. We need assurance that access to contraception and accurate information will always be provided by healthcare providers.

Victim Rights

These 2 bills are in committee. Our objective is to write to <u>all</u> the committee members and ask that they take it the bill to the floor for a vote. See addresses for all committee members in handout on the bills.

Senate Bill 90-

Prohibit impeding breathing or circulation of family members. (eg. Strangulation). Domestic violence committed in violation of the new prohibition generally is a third degree felony

Dear Senator _____

SB90 is in the Judiciary Committee you serve on. I am writing to request that you encourage the committee to bring this legislation to the Senate floor for a vote. Strangulation has been shown to cause death days after the attach when complications for swelling occurs. This kind of violent act needs to be included in domestic violence and be a felony. Please work with the Senate to pass SB90 and give domestic violence survivors the justice they deserve!

House Bill 121

Eliminate sex crime spousal exceptions; permit spousal testimony. The exceptions to the sex offenses that currently apply are rape, sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, gross sexual imposition and sexual imposition. Ohio is one of 12 remaining states that haven't amended the marital or spousal rape exemption law.

Dear Representative

HB121 is the Criminal Justice Committee that you serve on. I am writing to request that you encourage the committee to bring this legislation to the House floor for a vote. 76% of the states have amended the marital and spousal rape exception law. Ohio is not one of them. It is time that married women have the same rights and protection as single women regarding rape, sexual battery, gross sexual imposition, and sexual imposition. Please work with house members to pass HB121 and give married women legal recourse and establish new norms and behaviors for married men.

3 Electronic Messages You Can Send

1. Sign the petition to Leader Schumer: Schedule a vote on the Equal Rights Amendment

https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-the-petition-toleader-schumer-schedule-a-vote-on-the-equalrightsamendment?source=2022ERAVote ERAC&referrer

amendment?source=2022ERAVote_ERAC&referrer =group-era-

- 2. Send a message using NFBPWC's One Click Politics to Senator Brown Thank him for being a cosponsor and ask him to urge Majority Leader Schumer to bring S.J. Res 1 to the floor for a vote. Go to: www.nfbpwc.org/event-4488922
- 3. Send a message using NFBPWC's One Click Politics to Senator Portman and ask him to cosponsor and vote for removing the deadline for the ratification of the ERA. And, ask him to urge Majority Leader Schumer to bring S.J. Res 1 to the floor for a vote. Go to: www.nfbpwc.org/event-4488922

Senate Bill 90-

Prohibit impeding breathing or circulation of family members

SUMMARY & Expands the offense of "domestic violence" to also prohibit knowingly impeding the normal breathing or blood circulation of a family or household member by applying pressure to the throat or neck, or by blocking the nose or mouth, of the family or household member and provides special penalties for violations of the prohibition. Specifies that in a prosecution of "domestic violence" in violation of the above prohibition, it is not required to allege or prove that the family or household member suffered physical harm, serious physical harm, or visible injury. Creates as an affirmative defense to a charge of "domestic violence" by violating the above prohibition that the act was done to the family or household member as part of a medical or other procedure undertaken for the victim's benefit.

Penalties Domestic violence committed in violation of the new prohibition generally is a third degree felony and, when it is a third degree felony, the court must do one of the following: (1) except as described in clause (2), the court must impose a mandatory prison term of 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 30, or 36 months, or (2) if the victim is a pregnant woman and the offender, in committing the violation, caused serious physical harm to the "pregnant woman's unborn" or caused the "termination of the pregnant woman's pregnancy" (both defined as in existing law, unchanged by the bill), the court must impose a mandatory prison term of 9, 12, 18, 24, 30, or 36 months.4 But if the offender previously was convicted of domestic violence or of two or more "offenses of violence" (defined as in existing law, unchanged by the bill), a violation of the new prohibition is a second degree felony, and the court must impose a mandatory prison term that is one of the minimum terms prescribed for a second degree felony - those prescribed minimum terms are 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 years.

Definition of "family or household member" The existing definition of "family or household member" used in the law regarding the offense of domestic violence, which applies to the bill's new prohibition, specifies that "family or household member" means:7 (1) any of the following who is residing or has resided with the offender: (a) a spouse, a person living as a spouse, or a former spouse of the offender, (b) a parent, a foster parent, or a child of the offender, or another person related by consanguinity or affinity to the offender, or (c) a parent or a child of a spouse, person living as a spouse, or former spouse of the offender, or another person related by consanguinity or affinity to a spouse, person living as a spouse, or former spouse of the offender, or (2) the natural parent of any child of whom the offender is the other natural parent or is the putative other natural parent. As used in that definition, "person living as a spouse" means a person who is living or has lived with the offender in a common law marital relationship, who otherwise is cohabiting with the offender, or who otherwise has cohabited with the offender within five years prior to the date of the alleged commission of the act in question.

Sponsors



Referred to the Judiciary Committee on 3-3-21

Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Nathan H. Manning, Chair Ohio Senate District 13 Counties: Huron, Lorain Senate Building 1 Capitol Square Ground Floor Columbus, OH 43215 Hometown: North Ridgeville (614) 644-7613

Senator Rob McColley, Vice Chair Ohio Senate District 1 Counties: Auglaize (part), Defiance, Fulton (part), Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Logan (part), Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams Senate Building 1 Capitol Square 2nd Floor Columbus, OH 43215 Hometown: Napoleon (614) 466-8150

Senator Cecil Thomas, Ranking Member

Ohio Senate District 9 Counties: Hamilton (part) Senate Building 1 Capitol Square Ground Floor Columbus, OH 43215 Hometown: Cincinnati (614) 466-5980

Senator Niraj Antani

Ohio Senate District 6 Counties: Montgomery (part) Senate Building 1 Capitol Square Ground Floor Columbus, OH 43215 Hometown: Miamisburg (614) 466-4538

Senator Teresa Fedor

Ohio Senate District 11 Counties: Lucas (part) Senate Building 1 Capitol Square Ground Floor Columbus, OH 43215 Hometown: Toledo (614) 466-5204

Senator Theresa Gavarone Ohio Senate District 2 Counties: Erie, Fulton (part), Lucas (part), Ottawa, Wood Senate Building 1 Capitol Square 2nd Floor Columbus, OH 43215 Hometown: Bowling Green (614) 466-8060

Senator Kirk Schuring Ohio Senate District 29 Counties: Stark (part) Senate Building 1 Capitol Square 2nd Floor Columbus, OH 43215 Hometown: Canton (614) 466-0626

House Bill 121

Eliminate sex crime spousal exceptions; permit spousal testimony

Ohio is one of 12 remaining states that haven't amended the marital or spousal rape exemption law.

HB 121 focuses on two things: eliminating exceptions to certain sex offenses that currently apply if the victim is the spouse of the offender and expanding the proceedings in which a person may testify against the person's spouse to include prosecutions for any of the sex offenses modified by the bill.

The exceptions to the sex offenses that currently apply are rape, sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, gross sexual imposition and sexual imposition.

Sponsors:





Laura Lanese District 23 77 S. High St 11th Floor Columbus, OH 43215 614-466-9690 Kristin Boggs District 18 77 S. High St 14th Floor Columbus, OH 43215 614-719-6964

Cosponsors

R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S Rick Carfagna Erica C. Crawley Jeffrey A. Crossman Tavia Galonski Michele Lepore-Hagan Beth Liston Adam C. Miller Jessica E. Miranda C. Allison Russo Bride Rose Sweeney Casey Weinstein Tom Young

Referred to Criminal Justice Committee 2/17/21

Address for all committee members: Jo Ann Davidson Theatre Vern Riffe Center 77 S. High St (Include Floor number – see below) Columbus, OH 43215

Jeff LaRe, Chair District 77 13th Floor

Andrea White, Vice Chair District 41 11th Floor

David Leland, Ranking Member District 22 10th Floor

Cindy Abrams District 29 14th Floor

William Blackshear II District 39 11th Floor

Sedrick Denson District 33 10th Floor

Tavia Galonski District 35 10th Floor

Adam Miller District 17 10th Floor

Phil Plummer District 40 13th Floor

Sharon Ray District 69 13th Floor

Jean Schmidt District 65 12th Floor

Bill Seitz District 30 14th Floor

DJ Sweringen District 89 13th Floor

Reproductive Choice

BPW/OH's Legislation Platform on Health: Actively work to strengthen and enforce legal protection for full access to all health care services including reproductive choice, funding for research into the protection for women's health care and educational programs concerning women's health issues

Legislation being proposed in Ohio

HB 598 Enact Human Protection Act

referred to Government Oversight Committee 3/22/22 <u>House Bill 598 - Status | The Ohio Legislature</u> **companion SB 123 Enact Human Protection Act** Referred to Health Committee 3/10/21 <u>Senate Bill 123 - Status | The Ohio Legislature</u> Both will without exception, charge doctors with felonies for terminating a pregnancy, no matter the reason.

HB 480/ Referred to Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee 11/9/21

Sponsor: Jena Powell (80) and Thomas Hall (53) To would create a financial incentive for individuals to turn in friends, family and neighbors if they know they performed or even helped someone obtain an abortion or used certain forms of birth control like an IUD and Plan B that prevent the implantation of a fertilized egg. <u>House Bill 480 - Status | The Ohio Legislature</u>

HB 704 - The Personhood Act. Introduced 7/11/22 Representative Click

House Bill 704 | The Ohio Legislature

To recognize the personhood of an unborn human individual from conception. Cosponsors: Representatives Gross, Hall, Jordan, Manchester, Powell, Riedel, Stoltzfus <u>House Bill 704 Status | 134th General Assembly | Ohio</u> House of Representatives

SB 352 - Designate June 24 as "Life Day" Introduced 7/6/22 Senator Huffman, S.

To commemorate the United States Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization.

Cosponsors: Senators Antani, Blessing, Brenner, Cirino, Gavarone, Hoagland, Hottinger, Johnson, Lang, McColley, O'Brien, Roegner, Romanchuk, Schaffer <u>Senate Bill 352 - Status | The Ohio Legislature</u>

What you can do:

Write to your Representative and Senator to express your concern about these bills and that you do not want them to vote for any bill that decides when life begins, controls access to all reproductive healthcare options with no restrictions or criminalizes patients or doctors for taking advantage of any healthcare options recommended by their doctors for their situation.

Legislation being proposed in Washington

H.R. 8373 the Right to Contraception Act Sponsored by Rep. Kathy Manning (D-N.C.),

H.R.8373 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Right to Contraception Act | Congress.gov | Library of Congress

This bill sets out statutory protections for an individual's right to access and a health care provider's right to provide contraception and related information. *Contraception* refers to an action taken to prevent pregnancy, including the use of contraceptives (i.e., a device or medication used to prevent pregnancy), fertility-awareness based methods, and sterilization procedures.

Passed on Thursday by a vote of 228 to 195. Just eight Republicans—Reps. Liz Cheney (Wyo.), Brian Fitzpatrick (Pa.), Anthony Gonzalez (Ohio), John Katko (N.Y), Adam Kinzinger (III.), Nancy Mace (S.C.), Maria Salazar (Fla.) and Fred Upton (Mich.)—joined all House Democrats in support of the bill.

S.4557 — Right to Contraception Act Sponsored by: <u>Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA</u> (Introduced 07/19/2022) Co-Sponsored by <u>Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]*</u>

<u>S.4557 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Right to</u> <u>Contraception Act | Congress.gov | Library of Congress</u>

This bill sets out statutory protections for an individual's right to access and a health care provider's right to provide contraception and related information. *Contraception* refers to an action taken to

(i.e., a device or medication used to prevent pregnancy), fertility-awareness based methods, and sterilization procedures.

What you can do:

- 1. Contact Senator Brown and thank him for being a co-sponsor of S.4557.
- 2. Contact Senator Portman and ask him to cosponsor S 4557 and vote for the right to contraception.

Equal Rights Amendment

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Legislation proposed in Washington

Senate Joint Resolution is 1 Removes

arbitrary time limit on the passage of the ERA.

What you can do:

- 4. Sign the petition to Leader Schumer: Schedule a vote on the Equal Rights Amendment https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-the-petition-toleader-schumer-schedule-a-vote-on-the-equalrightsamendment?source=2022ERAVote_ERAC&referrer =group-era-
- Contact Senator Brown and thank him for being a cosponsor and ask him to urge Majority Leader Schumer to bring S.J. Res 1 to the floor for a vote. Send a message using NFBPWC's One Click Politics. Go to: <u>www.nfbpwc.org/event-4488922</u>
- Contact Senator Portman and ask him to co-sponsor and vote for removing the deadline for the ratification of the ERA. And, ask him to urge Majority Leader Schumer to bring S.J. Res 1 to the floor for a vote.. Send a message using NFBPWC's One Click Politics. Go to: <u>www.nfbpwc.org/event-4488922</u>
- 7. Tell others about the ERA, give them the link to Elect Equality and encourage them to make the ERA a focus for the mid-term elections. The Elect Equality Campaign provides voters with the opportunity to hear directly from candidates on their position on the ERA. Go to: https://www.eracoalition.org/electequality

House Resolution 891, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the article of amendment (commonly known as the "Equal Rights Amendment") to the Constitution is valid. It has 182 cosponsors including 154 original ones. <u>See Co-Sponsors</u>.

What you can do:

 Use this letter to thank your member of Congress if they're already signed on in support or ask your <u>Representative to Sign-on</u>,

Tell the White House: the Archivist must publish the ERA -- Please share with your networks

- 1. <u>Please Sign Petition</u> Tell the White House that the Archivist must publish the ERA
- 2. <u>Send a message directly to the White</u> <u>House</u> that the Archivist must publish the ERA